



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUL 26 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Congressman Carbajal,

Thank you for your letter of July 19, 2019, regarding the Cat Canyon Oil Field aquifer exemption. I share your concern for the protection of Santa Barbara County's groundwater resources.

As you may know, the State of California convened a public hearing on June 5th regarding the Cat Canyon Oil Field aquifer exemption proposal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 participated in the State's public hearing and provided an overview of EPA's role in the process. By the close of the public comment period, the State had received extensive public comments. Once the State considers public input and makes any revisions to the proposal, the exemption package may be forwarded to EPA for review and action. EPA will evaluate whether the exemption package meets federal criteria.

We will keep your office updated regarding this matter. Please contact me at (213) 215-3104 or via e-mail at stoker.michael@epa.gov if I can provide any additional information, or refer staff to our Congressional Liaison, Brent Maier, at (415) 947-4256 or via e-mail at maier.brent@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Stoker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Stoker" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Stoker
Regional Administrator

cc: Jason Marshall, Acting Supervisor, DOGGR
Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director, SWRCB